

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed are an image processing apparatus, an image processing method, and an image forming apparatus utilizing the image processing apparatus that can decrease deterioration of image quality even when misjudgment occurs in judging a type of an image, such as a halftone-dot area and an edge area of a character, when performing predetermined image processing on the image. When an area judgment unit 440 judges that a target pixel is in an edge area of a character that is present on a halftone-dot area (when any one of signals S17 to S20 is "high"), an operation of image processing to be performed on the target pixel is switched in accordance with whether the target pixel is a color pixel or not and whether the halftone-dot area is a color area or not.